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diseases than the white man. Our reports showed the death rate to be two and a half to one as against the negro," etc., as above.

It is more important, perhaps, to point out that the mortuary statistics in the report are made up only from returns made by certain named cities and towns. "Our vital statistics continue meagre, reports being made only by cities and towns," etc. . . . The few remarks which follow (including the passage quoted) are based on this table. Now less than 10 per cent of the total colored population of North Carolina is found in the cities and towns which have a population of 2500 or more, and from two of these towns (given in the table in the Report) no deaths (of white or colored) from malarial fever are reported, while it is altogether probable that there were no such deaths in Asheville, the returns from which town, however, are not found in the Report, so that the number of urban negroes exposed to malarial influences is but small compared with the total colored population of the State. It is very possible that while a greater population of the colored urban than of the white urban population dies of malarial diseases, at the same time the rural negro may be less susceptible to them than is the rural white man. That the negro in an average malarial country district of the South is less susceptible than the white man to such influences is the view still held very firmly, I believe, by the great majority of southern physicians, although, unfortunately, accurate statistics on this important question do not seem to be attainable.

F. J. B.

OPERATION OF POLL TAX IN IOWA.

In the *Seventh Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of Iowa, 1895-96*, some interesting data are given in regard to the operation of the poll tax in Iowa. In Des Moines there are supposed to be over 10,000 liable for this tax, of which, in 1895, 13 paid it in cash, 4311 worked out the tax. In 1896, 47 paid it in cash, and 4280 worked it out. It cost the city \$2500 to collect the tax for each year. Three dollars was the sum to be collected from each able-bodied male citizen between the ages of 21 and 45.

In Sioux City, 2979 persons are liable for this tax. In 1895, 300 of them either paid or worked out the tax, and in 1896, 388 did the same. In 1896 it cost \$240 to collect the tax.

In Burlington 3000 persons are liable for the tax. In 1896, 2325 either worked out or paid the tax. It cost the city \$237.75 to collect the tax.

In Ottumwa there is a voting population of 4600. The tax levied is \$2.50 per year. Deducting one-third not liable, from the fact that they are either too old or physically not able to perform a day's labor, there would be left a population liable for the tax of 3067. In 1896, 1407 paid or worked the tax with \$1660 turned over for collection to the county treasurer.

In Council Bluffs the number of persons liable it about 2000. Of this number 861 paid the tax in money or worked it out, in 1896.

In Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, and Keokuk no attempt was made to collect the poll tax.

The total number of persons liable for poll tax in the five cities under consideration is estimated to be 21,146, of which, in 1895, 9283 paid the tax, and in 1896, 9308. "It will be readily seen that considerable less than 50 per cent paid the tax. A law that cannot be applied to more than 50 per cent of the people it is supposed to govern is not a good law and ought to be repealed. In all the cities enumerated will be found the old worn out men and crippled working upon the streets as proxies, yet the law especially stipulates that none but able-bodied men between the ages of 21 and 45 shall perform this labor. There are men in many of the cities under consideration who carry around with them certificates from physicians to the effect that they are not physically able to perform manual labor, yet they are allowed to work out some man's tax who cannot perform such work."

ATHLETICS AND SCHOLARSHIP.

In the *Annual Report of the Provost of the University of Pennsylvania*, 1897, an attempt is made to analyze the relations of athletics to scholarship, as illustrated by the experience of that university. It appears that the number of conditions per student conditioned in the *first* term was:—

	Regulars.	Specials.	Partials.
For all students	1.69	1.7	1.6
For members of athletic teams . .	1.7	1.0	2.5